

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 02414 010904Z

13

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7794

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 2414

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, DA (SVEND JACOBSEN)

SUBJ: MINISTER OF HOUSING SVEND JACOBSEN--
BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

REF: COPENHAGEN 2393

1. THE NEW MINISTER OF HOUSING IN THE RECONSTRUCTED DANISH GOVT SVEND JACOBSEN, IS AN UNKNOWN ENTITY. BORN ON OVEMBER 1, 1935 IN ULSTED TO A FARM LABORER'S FAMILY, HE IS THE TYPICAL SELF-MADE MAN WHO HAS HAD A METEORIC CAREER. HE LEFT SCHOOL IN 1949 AFTER THE COMPULSORY SEVENYEARS OF SCHOOLING TO WORK AS A FARM HAND FOR THREE YEARS. IN 1952, HE WAS HIRED BY THE LOCAL FARM COOPERATIVE STORE, AND OBTAINED THE COMPULSORY VOCATIONAL TRAINING NECESSARY TO BECOME A RETAIL STORE CLERK. WITHNIGHT COURSES, HE BECAME A LICENSED BOOKKEEPER IN 1957. HE MOVED TO COPENHAGENIN 1960, WHEN THE FARM COOPERATIVE APPOINTED HIM SALES CONSULTANT AT ITS HEADQUARTERS IN TAASTRUP, A SUBURB OF COPENHAGEN. VIA LOCAL POLITICS IN TAASTRUP, HE BECAME CHAIRMAN OF THE LOCAL SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY CLUB, AND IN 1971 HE WAS ELECTED TO THE FOLKETING.

2. HOUSING POLICY HAS ALWAYS BEEN HIS SPECAL INTEREST, AND HE WAS THEREFORE APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THE FOLKETING COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
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PAGE 02 COPENH 02414 010904Z

IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS ELECTION. PUBLICLY, HE STATES THAT HE WILL

CONTINUE THE POLICY LAID DOWN BY HIS PREDECESSOR--THAT HE WILL
SEEK TO ENACT THE HOUSING BILL NOW DRAFTED BUT NOT AS YET SUBMITTED
TO THE FOLKETING. MORE PRIVATELY, HE HAS SAID THAT HIS BILL WILL
FOLLOW THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES LAID DOWN BY HIS PREDECESSOR
(AND APPROVED BY THE GOVT SUPPORT PARTY, THE SOCIALIST PEOPLES
PARTY), BUT THAT DETAILS CAN STILL BE NEGOTIATED. HE WILL BE THE
FIRST OF THE THREE NEW MINISTERS TO BE REQUIRED TO PROVE HIS METTLE.
THE HOUSING BILL COULD BE THE STRAW THAT BREAKS THE GOVT'S BACK, AND
IT WILL THEREFORE TAKE A STRONG PERSONALITY TO SEE IT ADOPTED.
ONE DANISH NEWSPAPER DOUBTS THAT SVEND JACOBSEN IS THAT STRONG, AND
CONSIDERS ANKER JORGENSEN TOBE OVERLY DARING IN HIS APPOINTMENT OF
JACOBSEN
CROWE

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